(e) Gauge conversion of 885 km in Tamil Nadu have been completed out of a total gauge conversion of 8437 km in the whole country since 1992-93, when Project Unigauge was launched.

Higher Expenditure on Operating Trains

† 1808. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expenditure incurred on the operation of the trains is more in comparison to that being incurred at international level;

(b) if so, the average trains operation expenditure in the country and at international level; and

(c) the reasons for the higher operation expenditure in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Average train operating expenditure in terms of average cost of haulage of a coaching train and a goods train, per train kilometre, on Indian Railways is as follows:

(Figures in Rs.)

Year	Coaching Train	Goods Train
1996-97	250.26	473.26
1997-98	311.71	573.55
1998-99	321.48	630.60

Similar information concerning other railways is not available. As such, no comments can be offered on relative cost performance.

Reorganisation of RUCCS

1809. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, of late, there are no closer ties between the Railways and the Rail users in the country and the facilities for the Rail users have been curtailed substantially;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.